

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application; claims 1 and 5 being independent. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Official Action

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Owa et al.* (USP 6,348,971). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on August 13, 2003. During the interview, the Applicant's representative presented arguments that the prior art cited does not teach or suggest sending print data to each of the plurality of printers as recited in independent claims 1 and 5. The Examiner agreed that the *Owa et al.* reference fails to teach or suggest this claimed element. As such, claims 1-5 are not anticipated by *Owa et al.* Based upon this agreement reached during the interview, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance.

Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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